

July 14 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2004

President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, who was found dead in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 19, 2002; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; Col. Muam-

mar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea; and Khalid Sheik Mohammed, senior Al Qaida leader responsible for planning the September 11, 2001, attack, who was captured in Pakistan on March 1, 2003.

Exchange With Reporters in Oshkosh, Wisconsin July 14, 2004

President's Visit to Wisconsin

Q. Mr. President, your reaction to the crowds and the towns?

The President. Very, very warm and very hospitable reaction. A lot of people coming out, for which I'm grateful.

Q. What did you get?

The President. Vanilla custard. It's highly recommended. I'm recommending vanilla for Hillman [G. Robert Hillman, Dallas Morning News].

Q. You are dripping. You need a napkin.

The President. I'm going to get one in a minute. Would you like some?

Q. No, thanks.

The President. I'm trying to get you a little national publicity.

Q. I think I've got all I need. [*Laughter*]

The President. I enjoyed talking to you, girls. Enjoyed talking to you. Thank you. All right, let's go back to work.

Q. First a candy store and now ice cream, sir?

The President. I'm loading up, carbo-loading for the weekend. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:50 p.m. at Leon's Frozen Custard. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Senate Action To Block a Constitutional Amendment on Marriage July 14, 2004

I am deeply disappointed that the effort to pass a constitutional amendment affirming the sanctity of marriage as being between a man and a woman was temporarily blocked in the Senate.

Activist judges and local officials in some parts of the country are not letting up in their efforts to redefine marriage for the

rest of America—and neither should defenders of traditional marriage flag in their efforts.

It is important for our country to continue the debate on this important issue, and I urge the House of Representatives to pass this amendment.